

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

By this Amendment, claims 17 and 19 have been amended to add the term "treating" to their respective preambles. Support can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed, including in the specification at page 27, lines 23 - page 28, line 6. Further, as noted in Applicant's November 8, 2005, Amendment, claims 17 and 19 are related to claims 11 and 16, respectively, each of which previously referred to a method of "treating." (November 8, 2005, Amendment, pg. 6.) Accordingly, the proposed minor amendments to claim 17 and 19 merely correct a clerical error, without raising any new issues, in order to place the claims in better condition for appeal.

No new matter has been added. Claims 9-20 are pending.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 OVER HIRAI

Claims 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Hirai (JP04077476). Applicant respectfully traverses for the reasons of record, including that Hirai fails to teach or suggest (expressly or inherently) any of the claimed methods.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner. Applicant submits that the proposed amendments of claims 17 and 19 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since as noted in section I, above, all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as

examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Applicant submits that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks and those of record, Applicant submits that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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